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SCHOOL REPORTS,

OF THE TOWN OF

MONTAGUE,

For the Year ending Feb. 22, 1860.

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1859-60

GREENFIELD:
MIRICK & CO., PRINTERS.
1860.

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TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.



J. C. Bangs, in Cash account with the town of Montague,	DR.
To Cash on hand, March 4, 1859,	105 43
Received of State Treasurer, School Fund,	76 23
" " " " Armory Rent,	18 00
" " " " Military Bounty,	162 00
" " Warren Bardwell, town school fund,	112 08
" " Town of Gill for Ferry expenses,	17 75
" " Town of Deerfield, for Ferry expenses,	10 14
" " Dog Licenses,	34 00
" " Martin Grout, balance Town House money,	1 94
" " For Rent of Town house,	82 59
" " A. L. Taft amount of Tax bill,	4929 21

\$5549 37

CR.

By Paid County tax,	741 00
" " State tax,	252 00
" " Military orders,	162 00
" " Mr. Osgood, Armory rent,	18 00
" " A. Cobb new Boat for Ferry,	50 00
" " Incidental expenses of Ferries,	61 29
" " J. Boynton on Town house debt,	1000 00
" " Selectmens' orders for Town expenses,	3212 81
" Cash on hand Feb. 22, 1860,	52 27

\$5549 37

J. C. BANGS, Treasurer.

SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

Paid Town expenses and deficiency,	3212 81
In the following classes—	
1st. Deficiency of last year,	228 84
2d. Schooling,	1430 60
3d. Extra Highway work,	317 18
4th. Services of Town officers,	242 09
5th. Interest on Town debts,	872 06
6th. Miscellaneous expenses,	122 04
	<hr/>
	\$3212 81

1st. Deficiency :—

A Rugg, abatement of taxes,	6 60
C. Bradford, Superintendant School Committee,	22 00
Avery Clapp, drawing hearse and tolling bell,	23 33
School districts for money expended in 1858,	81 54
A. L. Allen, bal. of expenses in Tyler case,	5 00
Warren Bardwell for stone for Town house.	4 00
Selectmen of Deerfield for ex. of Ferry,	34 58
Dog tax refunded,	22 00
Otis Gunn, highway, 6 40, Noah Grover, do, 2 30,	8 70
J. H. Morse, highway,	8 75
Several bills for plank,	6 25
J. C. Bangs and others, balance due,	6 09
	<hr/>
	\$228 84

2d. Schooling :—

Centre District,	267 50
South “	99 46
West “	130 70
North West District,	107 82
City “	211 25
Falls “	44 26
Miller's River “	63 75
Grout's “	138 04
Federal St. “	164 50
Dry Hill “	96 01
Chestnut Hill “	66 50
Lafayette “	40 81
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	\$1430 60

3d. Extra Highway :—

J. H. Benchley, for plank,	11 75
N. Osgood, " "	1 32
Geo. W. Potter, " "	23 57
C. & H. C. Lawrence, "	12 47
E. Marsh, "	3 28
Brigham Gage, overwork,	2 18
Apollos Gunn, " (old bill,)	38
A. B. Anderson, "	4 26
T. N. Graves, "	3 87
John Saxton, "	3 00
E. Ball, "	1 25
R. J. Rowe, "	7 00
H. Stevens, "	6 00
L. H. Stone, work on highway,	2 00
Town Farm, " " "	37 25
Peter Spaulding, " " "	17 91
Martin Grout, " " "	4 37
C. Lovland, for stone,	8 70
Allen's Sons, for spikes,	1 52
Henry Taylor, use of scraper,	1 00
R. L. & D. W. Goss, labor and materials,	129 00
Bela Kellogg, for cement,	12 50
Elijah Gunn, for timber,	14 70
H. H. Shepard, for sharpening drills,	1 20
Horace Burnham and others on bridge,	6 70
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	\$317 18

4th. Services of Town Officers :—

J. C. Bangs, Treasurer,	20 00
J. C. Bangs, Town Clerk,	27 58
Town Farm for R. N. Oakman, Selectman,	25 00
" " R. N. Oakman, Assessor,	15 00
" " R. N. Oakman, Supt. School Com.	18 50
L. H. Stone, Selectman, 15 88, Assessor, 3 75,	19 63
S. S. Holton, " 21 88, " 6 25,	28 13
S. Rockwell, Supt. School Committee,	19 50
C. Bradford, " " "	11 75
M. Grout & J. H. Benchley, Com.	2 00
A. L. Taft, Collector and Constable,	55 00
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	\$242 09

5th. Interest on Town Debt :—

Saving Bank for Town Farm debt,	378 00
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R. N. Oakman, Town Farm debt,	90 00
Elijah Bardwell, " " "	72 00
John Boynton, Town house "	243 60
J. S. Ward, " " "	55 50
Franklin Co. Bank and others,	26 44
Warren Bardwell, School Fund,	6 52
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	\$872 06

6th. Miscellaneous Expenses:—

Abatement of taxes,	34 70
S. C. Wells, damage on highway,	2 00
S. S. Eastman, for printing,	14 00
Joseph Clapp for drawing hearse and tolling bell,	22 50
S. S. Holton and others ex. in Wood case,	15 80
J. C. Bangs, express,	6 00
J. C. Bangs, moving safe,	1 00
S. S. Holton and others, ex. about Town house,	4 58
L. H. Stone, horse hire, &c.	3 86
L. Merriam, blank books and blanks,	4 11
Stationary, tolls, postage and sundries,	5 18
Furniture for Selectmen's office,	6 03
Joseph Clapp, Lamps and repairs Town House,	2 28
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	\$122 04

Current Indebtness—

Note to School Fund,	108 00
Due Centre School District,	11 36
" N. West " "	11 49
" Fed. St. " "	53 25
" Chest. Hill, "	57
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	\$184 67

Resources—

Cash in Treasury,	52 27
Due from School Fund,	109 00
" for rent of Town House,	8 00
Deficiency,	15 40
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	\$184 67

In addition to the above expenses, the Selectmen borrowed the sum of seven hundred dollars, which has been expended upon the highways, to repair the damage done by the freshets of last spring.

We paid three hundred dollars by contract, to S. D. Bardwell, Esq., for building a new road on "Saw Mill River," and the remaining four hundred has been expended at the city on the Canal road.

The Selectmen were unfortunate to say the least, in their first repair of the city road, by the failure of the culvert, losing a large part of the first expenditure, but they believe they have now a road and culvert that will stand and prove no further expense to the town.

LIQUOR AGENCY.

E. Nettleton, in cash acc't with the town of Montague,	DR.
To cash received of Warren Bardwell,	76 59
To cash received for Liquors sold,	177 51
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	\$254 10

CR.

By paid for Liquors and Freight,	174 10
“ “ “ Agent's services,	25 00
“ Cash on hand,	55 00
	<hr/>
	\$254 10

There remains in the agency, by estimation, liquors to the amount of \$65 74.

EDWARD NETTLETON, Agent.

SCHOOL FUND.

Supervisors Account.

Amount of Fund,	\$2878 30
Feb. 5, 1860, Interest due with arears,	221 08
Paid Town Treasurer,	112 08
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Due the Town,	\$109 00

WARREN BARDWELL, Chairman.

TOWN FARM.

Superintendent's Account:—

Dr.

To Cash received on settlement March 4, 1859,	262 10
“ “ “ of R. Shaw for 1 cow,	40 00
“ “ “ for pork and pigs,	16 05
“ “ “ for poultry,	4 50
“ “ “ for Hartwell cow,	55 72
“ “ “ for oats,	35 00
“ “ “ for apples,	32 00
“ “ “ for broom brush,	78 90
“ “ “ for keeping stock,	27 80
“ “ “ for hay, grain and sundries,	108 45
“ “ “ of Town and others for work on highway and services of R. N. O. as town officer,	160 75
To Cash received for Tobacco,	674 00
“ “ received of L. A. Williams for beef,	106 12
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	\$1601 39

Cr.

By Cash paid L. H. Stone, for one horse,	150 00
“ “ “ Russell & Thayer for pr. steers,	65 00
“ “ “ Farming tools,	74 04
“ “ “ for house furniture,	17 83
“ “ “ “ repairs,	29 36
“ “ “ “ Guano and other fertilizers,	51 63
“ “ “ “ help on farm,	157 47
“ “ “ “ “ in house,	29 50
“ “ “ “ pasturing cattle,	22 13
“ “ “ “ wheat, grass and other seeds,	25 20
“ “ “ “ cloth and clothes for poor,	24 72
“ “ “ “ support of paupers out of Alms house,	22 50
“ “ “ “ medicine,	2 10
“ “ “ “ Blacksmith's bills,	4 84
“ “ “ “ Superintendent's salary,	450 00
“ “ “ “ supplies and incidental expenses,	148 05
“ “ on hand Feb. 22, 1860,	327 02
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	\$1601 39

R. N. OAKMAN, Super't.

INVENTORY—

Of the Personal property of the Alms-house as estimated by the Overseers Feb. 22, 1860 :

Live stock,	860 00
Farming tools,	350 00
House furniture,	195 00
Produce and provisions,	748 00
Due from various persons,	18 00
Cash,	327 02
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	\$2498 02
Inventory last year,	2298 75
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Gain,	\$199 27

The Town Farm debt remains the same as last year, amounting to nine thousand dollars, the interest on which the town has paid, to wit :—five hundred and forty dollars. The Farm has supported the inmates of the Alms-house, paid all pauper bills outside belonging to the town, paid the Superintendent's salary, and all help and incidental expenses and saved by estimate, \$199 27, which sum taken from \$540 00, what the town has paid, will leave 340 73 the actual cost of supporting the poor. From this sum take 22 50, expenses for poor outside, and we have \$318 23, the cost of supporting the inmates at the Alms-house. We have furnished two hundred and sixty-eight weeks board at the Alms-house, which, at \$1 19 per week, will amount to a trifle more than the cost.

Whatever may be said for or against the farm, one thing seems clear, that the pauper expenses have been reduced from about \$1300 00, in 1855, to little more than \$300 00 in 1859, and that the whole expenses for support of the poor for the three years previous to the purchase of the farm, was rising \$3000 00, and for the three years since, but \$1500 00.

Estimated necessary appropriations for 1860 :—

Schooling,	\$1200 00
Town house debt,	1000 00
Interest on Town farm,	540 00
Interest on Town debt,	260 00

Contingencies,	300 00
Extra highway,	200 00
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	\$3500 00

Respectfully submitted,

R. N. OAKMAN,	}	Selectmen and Overseers of poor of Montague.
L. H. STONE,		
S. S. HOLTON,		

SCHOOL REPORT.

ANOTHER school year, with its labors and toils, and anxieties, and duties performed or neglected, has now closed, and it is believed, on taking a general survey of our schools, that some progress has been made the past year; yet your committee must say that our schools were not altogether what they would have them to be, and some of them at least, have fallen not a little below their standard of expectation.

A quite too common fault was the want of order and efficient government. We found in too many of our schools, a restless uneasiness, a thumping and scraping of feet, a frequent leaving of seats, and unnecessary whispering,—in fact, a great number of comparatively little things, which tend to interrupt the order, and consequently the progress of schools. The teachers were too frequently interrupted in hearing recitations, so that lessons received but half the attention which they ought to have received, because at the time some scholar asked to leave his seat, or to speak, or to have his lesson explained; or because some idle boy or girl required his attention. A good teacher will have such system and discipline, that his whole attention may be given, while classes are at recitations, without interruption by others. We should not hear so much complaint of disorder in our schools, if more of our teachers possessed that rare and most valuable gift, the faculty to *interest* their pupils, to keep their minds awake and active on the subject before them, whatever it may be. This is a rare talent, but no qualification is more important in a teacher. Without it, all other attainments are more than half lost. If you have an earnest, interested teacher, you will have an earnest, interested and profitable school.

Your committee regret that no more of the parents have visited the schools during the past year. Several of the closing examinations transpired without the presence of a single parent.

If there is to be a trial of mowing machines, or a plowing match, or an exhibition of well *educated* cattle; our farmers and others gather from the remote corners of the county, to witness and approve; and most strange it is that so little interest is apparently taken by so many parents in the exhibitions of the School-room. It is not sufficient that we pay out our money freely and provide commodious and comfortable houses, and high

priced teachers ; nor does our duty end when we have left our children at the threshold of the school-room. We would recommend and even urge the parents, that they visit their school often, become acquainted with the teacher, speak of the school often, of its usefulness and importance, in presence of their children, and let them know that they are looking forward to the closing examination with high expectations and deep interest,—and in every way giving the children, their teacher and each other to understand that they feel a deep interest in the school, and the importance of their own exertions in its advancement.

With these brief remarks we proceed to a more particular description of each school. The same plan was pursued last year, as heretofore, each member of the Committee taking special charge of certain schools and reporting upon their condition at the close.

CENTRE DISTRICT.

SENIOR DEPARTMENT.

Teachers—Summer, Miss Amelia Baker ; Winter, Mr. F. J. Carver.

	Sum.	Wint.
Whole number of scholars,	35	43
Average attendance,	31	35
No. who were neither absent or tardy,	2	1
Length of school,	3 1-2 mos.	2 1-4 m.
Wages of teachers per month,	\$20	\$35

The Summer school had many commendable points, and some failings. Though the teacher labored vigorously, and manifested an undivided interest in her work, yet she did not succeed in gaining the good will of her pupils ; hence the order was imperfect, and there was a lack of interest on the part of the scholars ; yet through the energy and perseverance of the teacher, very good progress was made.

The Winter school was interrupted, owing to an accident which happened to the teacher in the middle of the term, and his sickness before the time it was to close—loosing a week by the former and a fortnight by the latter, therefore the progress of the school was very limited. Mr. Carver is a teacher of considerable experience and but for his misfortunes, we trust would have given us a successful school.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

Teacher—Summer and Winter, Miss Hattie A. Ward.

	Sum.	Wint.
Length of School,	3 1-2 mos.	2 3-4 m.

Whole number of scholars,	43	38
Average attendance,	38	35
Number not absent or tardy,	3	12
Wages of teacher per month,	\$18	\$18

The order was not excessively rigid, as is sometimes the case in schools composed entirely of little children. Miss Ward makes more of the school-room than a work-shop or prison-house; she gives to it all the familiarity of home, and the charm of the fire-side, which is indispensable to the management of the Primary school.

S O U T H D I S T R I C T .

Teachers—Summer, Miss Ellen M. Hosmer ; Winter, Miss Ellen L. Gunn.

	Sum.	Wint.
Length of school,	3 mos.	2 1-2 m.
Whole number of scholars,	31	44
Average attendance,	24	39
Wages of teachers per month,	\$16	\$18

The Summer school was one of the most quiet, and we believe every way, one of the very best in town. The teacher for the Winter, Miss Gunn, possesses all the qualifications that make a good teacher,—energy, confidence, decision, authority and ability, hence she carries every point and keeps a perfect school.

W E S T D I S T R I C T .

Teachers—Summer, Miss Marian E. Taft ; Winter, Mr. C. M. Palmer.

	Sum.	Wint.
Length of school,	3 1-2 mos.	2 3-4 m.
Whole number of scholars,	31	44
Average attendance,	24	39
Number not absent or tardy,	3	4
Wages of teachers per month,	\$18	\$34

The Summer school might almost be called an anomaly ; for there was an almost total want of the first law of heaven and of a school, while the progress in the studies was equal to that in many better disciplined schools. More decision and authority, combined with the amiability of the teacher, would have added much to the appearance of the school.

It is believed that Mr. Palmer has, in a measure, *lived down* the prejudice against the “student” in one District in town at least, by his well directed efforts in this school. He not only felt an interest in his work, but succeeded in awakening an interest in the school.

NORTH WEST DISTRICT.

Teacher—Summer and Winter, Miss Mary Chapin.

	Sum.	Wint.
Length of school,	3 mos.	3 1-2 m.
Whole number of scholars,	19	29
Average attendance,	17	24
Number not absent or tardy,	3	0
Wages of teacher per month,	\$16	\$20

Miss Chapin has doubtless taught more terms in this District, than any other teacher in any one District in Town. From her reputation and experience, and qualifications, we expected a first class school. An alienation of feeling between the teacher and some of the parents and pupils of the District—planted in the summer germinated and bore fruit in the winter. Miss Chapin has many excellent ways in the school-room, and is decidedly successful in teaching such children as are fortunate enough to secure her good will and friendship. We consider it however as much the *duty* if not the *pleasure* of the faithful teacher to assist and encourage the dull and indolent, and it may be disagreeable child as any other. And we apprehend that any teacher who is not able to discover the germ of the living soul in every child must have his vision seriously obstructed and usefulness affected. With one of the best houses in Town, with one of the pleasantest locations in or out of town, with a District ordinarily quiet, united and prosperous, with a teacher experienced and competent,—blame attaches somewhere that the school was not every way successful. We do not justify ourselves, and do not wish to blame others, but we do desire that every parent in the District would be ready to make any proper sacrifice of feeling or prejudice or preference for the good of all future schools.

CITY DISTRICT.

Teachers—Summer, Miss E. Amelia White ; Winter, Mr. Josiah Hall.

	Sum.	Wint.
Length of school,	5 mos.	3 m.
Whole number of scholars,	64	60
Average attendance,	52	50
Number not absent or tardy,	0	3
Wages of teachers per month,	\$21	\$35

We have not found this school so quiet either summer or winter, as we could wish. We remember, however, that the school is large, children quite young, and the house not the most convenient or comfortable. We believe the teachers labored faithfully and the school made good progress.

MILLER'S RIVER DISTRICT.

Teachers—Summer, Miss C. Grover ; Fall, Miss Lizzie M. Rugg.

	Sum.	Fall.
Length of school,	2 1-2 mos.	1 3-4 m.
Whole number of scholars,	13	12
Average attendance,	11	9
Number not absent or tardy,	0	2
Wages of teachers per month,	\$12	\$15

This small school we believe, was well taught both terms. The attendance was regular and the only fault we could find, was with the house which is not fit to be used.

GROUT'S DISTRICT.

Teachers—Summer, Miss Mary A. Richardson ; Winter, Mr. O. M. Drury.

	Sum.	Wint.
Length of school,	2 3-4 mos.	3 mos.
Whole number of scholars,	27	27
Average attendance,	18	23
Number not absent or tardy,	0	2
Wages of teachers per month,	\$16	\$28

This school was taught both Summer and Winter by young and comparatively inexperienced teachers, yet both succeeded admirably. The attendance in the Summer was very irregular, and necessarily injured the progress of the school. Many parents felt obliged to keep their children from school more or less during the "berry season," for the money they could earn. In the Winter there were no berries to pick, and the attendance was better.

We are pleased that so many of our foreign population appreciate and improve the privileges of our free schools ; and we begin to find in this as in other Districts, some of our best scholars among their children.

FEDERAL STREET DISTRICT.

Teachers—Summer, Miss Lizzie A. White ; Winter, Mr. Alfred F. Marsh.

	Sum.	Wint.
Length of school,	3 mos.	3 mos.
Whole number of scholars,	47	50
Average attendance,	32	42
Number not absent or tardy,	0	3
Wages of teacher per month,	\$16	\$33 1-3

The Summer school was visited by an absent member of the committee who did not report very favorably of it. But whatever the District may have lost in the Summer, they have more

than recovered in the Winter. We have seldom, if ever, visited a school with the entire management of which, we were so well pleased. Here was exhibited in a marked degree, what system, tact, talent and energy will surely do for any school. Let some other teacher have taken this same school, and we should have had idle, dull, disorderly boys, money wasted, time lost and the whole catalogue of complaints to make. But under Mr. Marsh, every one was industrious, earnest and faithful because *he* was. We were unavoidably absent from the closing examination, which we regret.

DRY HILL DISTRICT.

Teachers—Summer, Miss Paulina Booth ; Winter, Miss Lizzie Rugg and Mr. Seymour Rockwell.

	Sum.	Wint.
Length of school,	3 mos.	2 1-2 m.
Whole number of scholars,	18	18
Average attendance,	14	16
Wages of teachers per month,	\$14	\$16 and \$24 3-4

Miss Booth proved herself active and capable in the management of her school, which made commendable progress, and on the whole was satisfactory. Miss Rugg's attempt was little less than a failure. She failed in securing the respect of the scholars and there was a manifest want of order ; the pupils went over but little ground and understood out comparatively little of that. Miss Rugg left and the school was finished by Seymour Rockwell.

CHESTNUT HILL DISTRICT.

Teachers—Summer, Miss Abbie W. Ripley ; Winter, Miss Jane L. Richardson.

	Sum.	Wint.
Length of school,	3 mos.	2 1-2 m.
Whole number of scholars,	16	19
Average attendance,	14	17
Number neither absent or tardy,	3	2
Wages of teachers per month,	\$14	\$17

Miss Ripley taught a very good school, satisfactory to all. The closing examination was excellent. Miss Richardson's school was alive and active. A great deal was done and well done.

The Lafayette District had but one term which had not closed at the time of making up this report. In the Falls District there has been no school, a part of the children going to Gill and the remainder to the City District.

R. N. OAKMAN, } Superintending
SEYMOUR ROCKWELL, } School Committee.

